

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4563

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4571

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: CVIS PFOR RO (RAUTA, ECATERINA)

SUBJ: DIVIDED FAMILIES; RAUTA, ECATERINA

REF: STATE 211083

1. I SAW ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER GLIGA SEPTEMBER 11 AND MADE ALL THE POINTS CONTAINED IN PARA 4 REFTEL. IN REQUESTING CALL I HAD INDICATED THAT I WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH GLIGA THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN CONSULAR DIRECTORATE OFFICIALS LOGHIN AND MATEI AND CONSUL PERKINS. IN MAKING POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL, I ADDED MY OWN PERSONAL REGRET THAT SUCH STATEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO AN AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL, THE FIRST I COULD RECALL IN MY YEARS OF SERVICE IN ROMANIA.

2. GLIGA RESPONDED THAT, HAVING BEEN INFORMED OF THE PURPOSE OF MY CALL, HE HAD ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED A REPORT FROM THE MINISTRY'S CONSULAR DIRECTORATE ON THE DISCUSSION WITH CONSUL PERKINS BUT NOT IN ANY GREAT DETAIL. BASED ON THAT GENERAL ACCOUNT, HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE DETAILS I PROVIDED. AS TO THE THREAT ABOUT PERKINS' CONTINUED WELCOME IN ROMANIA, HE ASSURED ME THAT THE CONSULAR DIRECTORATE HAD RECEIVED NO AUTHORIZATION TO INFORM PERKINS THAT HE MIGHT BE DECLARED PNG. WITH REGARD TO THE MATTER OF CONSULAR ACCESS, GLIGA GAVE ASSURANCES
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THAT IN CONFORMITY WITH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE, MULTI-

LATERAL OBLIGATIONS AND BILATERAL CONSULAR AGREEMENTS ROMANIA ACCORDED CUSTOMARY RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES TO FOREIGN CONSULAR OFFICIALS. AS A CONSEQUENCE, ROMANIAN CITIZENS WHO HAD LEGITIMATE BUSINESS WITH FOREIGN CONSULAR OFFICERS WERE ABLE TO HAVE ACCESS TO THEM. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH THE RAUTA CASE BUT DID NOT KNOW HOW THINGS NOW STOOD.

3. SPEAKING PERSONALLY GLIGA STATED THAT HE WISHED I HAD COME TO HIM AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT AND THAT WE COULD HAVE HAD AN INFORMAL DIALOGUE TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEM BEFORE IT HAD BEEN REPORTED TO WASHINGTON. I RESPONDED THAT, WHILE THERE WAS MERIT IN SEEKING INFORMAL RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS WHEREEVER POSSIBLE, THE FACT THAT LOGHIN HAD INDICATED CLEARLY TO PERKINS THAT HE WAS SPEAKING OFFICIALLY ABOUT THE RAUTA CASE HAD PROMPTED THE EMBASSY TO REPORT THE MATTER TO WASHINGTON AND TO SEEK GUIDANCE.

4. GLIGA STATED THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO MAKE ANY FURTHER COMMENT AT THE MOMENT. HE PROMISED, HOWEVER, TO GET BACK TO ME IN A SHORT TIME, AFTER HE HAD INVESTIGATED THINGS FURTHER.

5. COMMENT: GRANTED THAT GLIGA DID NOT GO INTO DETAILS, HIS WHOLE ATTITUDE WAS CLEARLY ONE OF SOME SURPRISE AND REGRET. SINCE LOGHIN AND MATEI CLAIMED THEY WERE SPEAKING OFFICIALLY AT LEAST SO FAR AS CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND MRS. RAUTA WERE CONCERNED, WE STILL REMAIN AT LOSS TO EXPLAIN THE WHOLE INCIDENT. IN LIGHT OF LAST SENTENCE PARA 5 REFTEL, WE PLAN TO HOLD OFF ANY FURTHER CONTACT WITH MRS. RAUTA UNTIL FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION WITH GLIGA.
BARNES

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